the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism on 25-26 June 2001 in Washington D.C. These issues, *inter alia*, also featured in the discussions during other bilateral visits between the two sides, including during the visit to the United States by Minister of External Affairs and Defence in April 2001 and during the visits to India by the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage in May 2001 and by the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Mrs. Christina Rocca in July 2001.

Shuttling of Chhota Rajan

3415. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gangster Chhota Rajan who has escaped from Bangkok hospital in mysterious circumstances sometime back is presently shuttling between Luxembourg and Switzerland to escape law in India;

(b) if so, the details of his present whereabouts and activities;

(c) whether there is any progress in locating and apprehending his contacts in nefarious activities in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action initiated against him; and

(e) the measures taken in recent weeks to get Chhota Rajan extradited to India to face the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (e) Government have no information about the present whereabouts and activities of Sadashiv Nikalje @ Chhota Rajan. A request prepared by the Mumbai Police for the extradition of the fugitive offender, was forwarded to the Government of Thailand on 16.10.2000. Further measures for extraditing him to India can be taken only when his whereabouts are known.

Sanctions imposed by U.S.

3416. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sanctions imposed by the United States due to the nuclear test during 1998 have been lifted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the U.S. sanctions still pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The United States has lifted a number of unilateral restrictions it had imposed on India after the nuclear tests in May 1998.

(b) The US has lifted restrictions on assistance from the US EXIM Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPEC) and the US Trade and Development Agency (TDA); on International Military Education and Training Programme; on the lending by U.S. banks to the Government of India; on credit and financial assistance by Department of Agriculture to support the purchase of food; and, certain assistance programmes under the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act 1961.

(c) The United States Government continues to maintain restrictions on U.S. support for loans by international financial institutions to India, except for humanitarian purposes; on sales of Defence Articles, Defence Services or Design and Construction Services under Arms Export Control Act as also military financing under this Act; on export of any item on the United States Munition List; and, on export of certain goods and technology on the Commodity Control List of the U.S. Export Administration Rules (EAR), commonly described as "dual use" goods and technology.

In addition, a specific group of Indian Government organisations, defence establishments, research institutions, public sector units and private companies, and their subsidiary bodies, which the United States considers to be involved in the Indian nuclear and missile programmes, face tighter restrictions on import of dual use items from the United States. There are currently over 150 such units on the so-called Entity List of the United States.

Agreement with France

3417. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of his visit to France during this year;

(b) the agreements signed; and

(c) the assistance likely to be received from them?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.